

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 CU-04 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 035184

R 050722Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8733

AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 18850

E.O. 11652: EX GDS

TAGS : TH, PINS

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCENE -VIEWS OF CHIANG MAI GOVERNOR

CHIANG MAI 424 BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO: QUOTE::

R 0 -811Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 1842

C O N F I D E N T I A L CHIANG MAI 424

E.O. 11652: RECOMMEND EXEMPT

TAGS: TH, PINS

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCENE - VIEWS OF CHIANG MAI GOVERNOR

REF: CHIANG MAI 364

1. REFTEL REPORTS GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC REACTION OF
CHIANG MAI GOVERNOR, ASA MEKSAWAN, TO OVERTHROW OF THANOM
GOVERNMENT AND PROSPECTS FOR DEMOCRACY. DURING DISCUSSION
DEC 4, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT ASA HAS BECOME CONSIDERABLY
LESS SANGUINE. HE VOLUNTARILY INDICATED THAT HE WOULD
NOT REPEAT NOT BE AVERSE TO A RETURN TO MILITARY LEADERSHIP.
HE SAID NARONG WAS AWFUL, BUT HIS FATHER WAS A GOOD MAN.
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HE SAID PERHAPS A MILITARY MAN COULD STABILIZE THE SITUATION.

HE SAID HE WAS QUITE WORRIEDABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
AND ABILITY OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT TO COPE. HE SAID DEMOCRACY
WAS GOOD, BUT HE IS AFRAID THE COMMUNISTS AND THE "THIRD
HAND" ARE GOING TO EXPLOIT PRESENT DISTURBANCES. HE
SAID, HOWEVER, THE STUDENTS AND OTHERS JUST WILL NOT
REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THIS. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE
STUDENTS NOW CAN CRITIZE EVERYONE BUT NO REPEAT NO ONE
CAN CRITIZE THEM.

2. COMMENT: ASA IS RELATIVELY YOUNG AND WELL
VERSED IN CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT. HE HAS A
PHD IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FROM INDIANA, AND AN
ACADEMIC BACKGROUND IN THAILAND. HE IS, BY THE STANDARDS
OF HIGH-LEVEL THAI BUREAUCRACY, RATHER LIBERAL IN HIS
OUTLOOK. HIS REMARKS THEN COULD BE INDICATIVE OF
GROWING AND WIDE-SPREAD DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE HURLY-
BURLY OF FREE EXPRESSION WITHIN THE GENERALLY CONSERVATIVE
BUREAUCRACY.
MONTGOMERY
UNQUOTE KINTNER

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NNN

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To: n/a
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